SHRI M. M. JACOB: As suggested by the Vice-Chairman, I am only making a statement. The discussion on the Bill will continue because it is an important Bill. I also see its importance.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

I. RE: Incident of Bomb Exposion in a Mosque in Rai Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on 3rd August, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, according to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, on 3rd August, 1992 at about 0800 hours, there was a bomb explosion inside the courtyard of Jama Masjid in Mohalla Chhota Bazar in Rai Bareilly city. As a result, two children aged 10 and 11 years, who were sitting on the 'chabutra' above the basement in the courtyard of the mosque, were killed. In the explosion, a wall and the 'chabutra' in the courtyard were damaged. One girl, aged 20 years, who was sitting in the courtyard in her house adjacant to the mosque was injured; she was discharged from the hospital after first-aid.

An *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 20,000/- each to the next of the kin of the deceased children and an amount of Rs. 1,000/- to the injured has been announced by the State Government. Arrangements are being made to repair the damaged 'chabutra' and the wall of the mosque.

On receipt of the information, senior officers reached the place of the explosion. The debris was removed from the place of the explosion to ensure that there were no dead bodies. First Information Report has been lodged by the father of the deceased children.

The State Government have informed that for speedy and effective investigation, a team of the Crime Investigation Department has been directed to visit Rai Bareilly. The team will be headed by an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police. A strict watch on the situation is being kept by the senior officers, and police is patrolling Rai Bareilly city.

Sir, the U.P. Government has today informed through a fax message that a team of the Crime Investigation Department has already reached Rai Bareilly and started the investigation.

II. Killings by suspected militants in District Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, I rise to inform the House about the tragic incident of the killing of 29 persons in the Pilibhit District of Uttar Pradesh.

According to information received from the State Government, 19 persons from village Ghunghchai, PS Pooranpur, District Pilibhit and 10 from village Shivnagar, PS Gajraula, District Pilibhit, had gone to the nearby forest to collect some local wild vegetables on 31st July, 1992. Of these 29 persons, 3 were women. When these persons did not return, the villagers went out to search for them on the 1st of August and when they were unable to find them, they reported the matter to the police.

The police launched search and combing operations and around midday on 3rd August found the bodies by the side of a small river by the name of Khannaut. The villagers were found with their hands and feet tied and appear to have died by strangulation. An attempt also app-

[Shri M. M. Jacob]

ears to have been made to set the bodies on fire, which however, did not succeed, perhaps on account of rain.

No group or person has yet claimed responsibility for the killings. It is suspected that two or three gangs who are said to be moving in the area may be responsible. Police and para-military forces have launched intensive operations for combing of the entire area which is densely forested and is about 8 kms from the main road.

The District Magistrate, SP, DIG, Divisional Commissioner and the Zonal IG of Police visited the site on 3rd August and nearby district have been alerted.

The Chief Minister has visited the area on 4-8-1992 alongwith two ministerial colleagues and the DGP. Rs. 20,000/- has been paid to each affected family as immediate *exgratia* relief.

The Government of India have allotted sophisticated fire arms including AK-47 rifles, self-loading rifles, carbines, LMGs, pistols, etc., to the UP Government. The supply may not have met the total requirements of the State Government in view of overall constraint of availability of weapons at the national level.

As many as 44 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed in U.P. We suggested to all the State Governments including U.P. to raise India Reserve Battalions and have offered that 50 per cent of the initial cost of raising will be fully met by the Government of India as a grant and the remaining 50 per cent expediture will be provided as a long-term loan. We have yet to receive a proposal from the U.P. Government.

A meeting was held by me on 29-2-1992 with the Chief Ministers of the States and the Governors of Union Territories which are affected by terrorist activties to chalk out a strategy for combating terrorism. After a frank discussion in the meeting, certain decisions were taken. A cell has been created in the Home Ministry under a Special Secretary and the State Governments/UTs were also requested to have a cell in their jurisdiction. A meeting of the concerned Home Secretaries and Directors-General of Police of the States/UTs was held in the Home Ministry on 28th April, 1992. In this meeting the information and intelligence about terrorists, their activities their *modus operandi* etc. was up-dated and exchanged. The logistics and strategy to contain and combat terrorism was also planned. Thank you

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III. Announcement Re. Arrest and Release of a Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H HANUMANTHAPPA): Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that a wireless message has been just received from the SHO, Parliament Street, New Delhi that Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann, a Member of Rajya Sabha, has been detained at 13.1 hours and released at 15.15 hours today on 5-8-92 at Police Station Parliament Street, New Delhi, under section 65 of the Delhi Police Ac

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What about clarifications?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H HANUMANTHAPPA): It has already been decided to take up the clarifications tomorrow.

THE BHOPAL GAS LEAK DISASTER (PROCESSING OF CLAIMS AMENDMENT BILL, 1992—Cont

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, S eight years after this catastrophe took place in Bhopal, we are still discussing how to provide relief That is the state of affairs as far our administration and welfare me